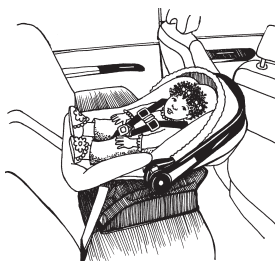


Selecting the Right Kind of Car Seat

Stages of Car Seat Use

**Child
Safety
Facts**
2005

Stage 1: Rear-facing Car Seat



Birth up to at least age 1 and over 20 pounds

Infant-only seat: rear-facing only

Convertible car seat: rear-facing up to maximum weight on label (22 to 35 pounds); can continue rear-facing in a convertible beyond age 1 to the seat's upper height and weight limits for rear-facing (check label).

Car bed: if baby has a medical need to lie flat.

Premature infants: should face the rear until at least one year after their full-term due date.

Stage 2: Forward-Facing Car Seat with Harness



Age 1 or higher to 40+ pounds

Convertible: use up to 40 pounds or more (check label).

Forward-facing seat, built-in child seat, vest: over age 1 to 40 pounds or more (check label).

Combination Child Seat/Booster: use with harness up to 40 pounds or more (check label).

Stage 3: Booster Seat with Lap-Shoulder Belt or Car Seat with Harness



40+ pounds, age 3–4, up to 7–8 years

Only use a booster with lap-shoulder belt; upper weight limits vary from 80 to 100 pounds; use until vehicle belts fit properly (Stage 4).

If no shoulder belt is available or the child is too young to sit still in a booster, use a car seat or harness made for children over 40 pounds (see right).

Shoulder belt kits are available for some older cars.*

Use a booster until seat belt fits well.

Stage 4: Lap-Shoulder Belt That Fits Well



The seat belt fits correctly if all of these things are okay:**

- Child must be able to sit straight with his or her bottom against the vehicle seat back.
- Legs should bend naturally at edge of seat cushion.
- Lap belt stays low on hips, at thighs.
- Shoulder belt fits across middle of shoulder. **NEVER** put the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back! That can cause serious injury.
- Child should be able to sit this way for an entire trip.

*List at www.carseat.org; ** From 5-Step Test, SBS USA

- **The safest car seat** (child safety seat) is one that fits your child and your vehicle. Make sure it is easy to use correctly on **every** ride.
- **The choice of car seat** depends on your child's age, weight, height, and behavior.
- **Car seats are designed** for a child of average size. Your own child's size and needs may vary.
- **Beware** of used car seats. They may not have all their parts and could have hidden damage from a crash.
- **Follow instructions** for your car seat and vehicle.

Resources

NHTSA Auto Safety Hotline:

888-DASH-2-DOT, 800-424-9153(tty)

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. (SBS USA)

Helpline: 800-745-SAFE,

www.carseat.org

Car Seat Inspection Sites:

866-SEAT-CHECK (866-732-8243),

www.seatcheck.org

Products with harnesses for children over 40 pounds

There are several products available that have a harness rated for use by children weighing 50-65 pounds. For a product listing, go to www.saferidenews.com; or visit these individual manufacturer web sites to locate a product:

www.britaxusa.com

www.combi-intl.com

www.ezonpro.com,

www.safetrafficsystem.com,

www.safety1st.com

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Every Ride
A Safe Ride*

